

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Original) An apparatus for sterilizing dental or orthodontic tools, which comprises:
a transport rack having a pair of opposing side walls, a bottom and a back wall, all interconnected and forming a generally rectangular box of a pre-selected dimension which is open to the front and the top;

at least one shelf which is horizontally disposed and attached to at least the opposing side walls; and

a plurality of cassettes adapted for placement upon said shelf and said bottom.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein ~~said transport rack further comprises:~~

said opposing side walls, back wall and bottom each ~~define~~having a plurality of holes through which fluid and debris may pass; ~~and~~

~~a pair of horizontally disposed flanges attached to the tops of said opposing side walls, each of said opposing flanges having at least one hole therein.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3 which further comprises a top handle having a horizontally oriented rail adapted to receive and vertically hold a plurality of dental or orthodontic pliers, ~~and a pair of opposing and downwardly extending plates having upwardly extending engagement pins configured to interfit underneath said opposing flanges with the upwardly extending engagement pins interfitting within said holes in said flanges.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3 which further comprises a side handle having a pair of horizontally disposed insertion rails, each having an upwardly extending engagement pin, said insertion rails attached to a front rail, and at least one downwardly extending lever handle attached to said front rail, said insertion rails configured for insertion into said transport rack ~~underneath said opposing flanges with said upwardly extending engagement pins interfitting within said holes in said flanges.~~

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said plurality of cassettes are each generally rectangular in shape and having a hinged top, and configured in size and shape to receive and hold dental or orthodontic tools.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 which further comprises a pair of opposing latches for releasably securing said hinged top to said cassette, wherein opposing pressure must be simultaneously applied to each of said opposing latches to release said latches and said top.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 which further comprises a plier rack pivotally mounted within said cassette and configured to lay within said cassette when said hinged top is closed, and to pivot to a generally upright position for holding pliers when said hinged top is open.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said cassettes are each further configured dimensionally such that either one cassette or a combination of cassettes will completely fill said shelf.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said plurality of cassettes are of various widths wherein the various widths, from a smallest width to a largest width, are dimensionally configured as whole integer multiples of the smallest width and where the largest width completely fills said shelf.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said cassettes each further comprise:

a generally rectangular box having opposing side and end walls, a fixed generally flat bottom wall for resting upon a surface, and a hinged top cover, wherein each wall and the top cover are provided with a plurality of holes through which fluid and debris may pass; and

wherein said hinge is a double hinge configured to permit said top cover to lay flat upon the same surface which the bottom wall rests upon.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said double hinge further comprises:
a first horizontally oriented hinge dividing one of said end walls or one of said side walls into upper and lower halves; and
a second hinge connecting the upper half of said wall to the top cover.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said double hinge further comprises:
a first horizontally oriented ~~piano~~ hinge interconnected to one of said end walls or one of said side walls and said top cover; and
a second ~~piano~~ hinge oriented in juxtaposed relationship to said first hinge dividing said top cover into two interconnected pieces wherein the piece of the top cover attached to said end wall or side wall is of the same general dimensional size as the end wall or side wall to which it is attached to by means of said first hinge.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said cassettes each further include means for supporting dental or orthodontic tools.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said cassettes each further include indicia for identifying which dental or orthodontic tools may be contained within said cassettes.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said indicia further comprises means for color coding said cassettes.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 which further comprises an orthodontic band or dental tray for holding segregated a plurality of variously sized orthodontic bands or dental temporary crowns, said orthodontic band or dental tray comprising bottom plate, a pair of opposing side walls, a front wall, a back wall, and a plurality of interior divider walls, all made of a heat resistant, sterilizable material, and all attached to each other in a configuration to form a tray, open at the top and having a plurality of compartments for holding segregated said plurality of various sizes of orthodontic bands or dental temporary crowns, said bottom plate having a plurality of holes therein configured to drain each of said compartments of fluids, said orthodontic band tray configured dimensionally for insertion onto said shelf in said transport rack.

18. (Original) An apparatus for sterilizing dental or orthodontic tools, which comprises:

a transport rack having a pair of opposing side walls, a bottom wall and a back wall, all interconnected and forming a generally rectangular box of a pre-selected dimension which is open to the front and the top, said opposing side walls, back wall and bottom wall each having a plurality of holes through which fluid and debris may pass;

a pair of horizontally disposed flanges attached to the tops of said opposing side walls, each of said opposing flanges having at least one hole therein;

at least one shelf which is horizontally disposed and attached to at least the opposing side walls; and

a plurality of cassettes adapted for placement upon said shelf and said bottom wall.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)